

Rec'd July 3rd

Washington, June 27, 1856

Dear Doctor,

With reference to my last letter I send you now two proofs of a map of Magnetic Declination from Coast Survey obs's, on which I have also plotted the results deduced from the obs's on the Mexican Boundary. It is easy to perceive by glancing at it how important some good observations near the position of St Louis would be, and the possession of a copy may perhaps induce a competent person to furnish me some additional material.

Would Mr. Keyes be a person likely to interest himself in the matter?

With best regards to your wife

Yours truly

J. E. Milligan

D. J. Ingallman
St Louis



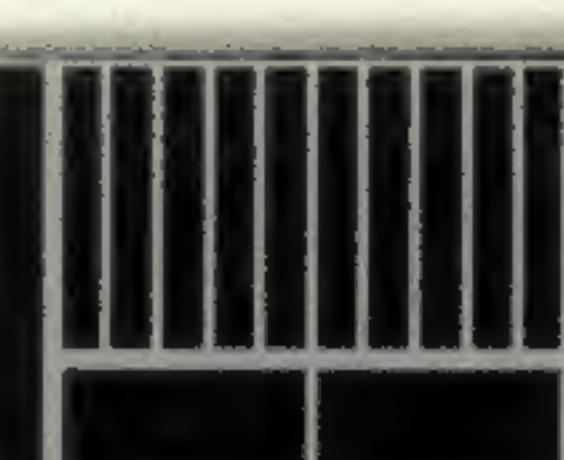
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Washington, March 6, 1863

My dear Doctor

I send you
the text of a bill which you
may take some interest in -
it has been passed in just the
shape, and I hope may prove
the beginning of a good thing.

You will soon hear about some
steps towards a meeting for organi-
zation.

Please pass the doc over to
Chauvenet, when you have read it,
with my compliments.

My best regards to Mrs. Dora

Yours, as ever,

Edw. Gilg and



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Rec'd April 3rd

Washington, March 29, 1863

Dear Doctor,

The story of the Academy might be more conveniently told you at the meeting for organization in New York: but I fear you will not be there, and so will tell you what I know about its origin.

The formation of a scientific body with some sort of national recognition, so as to be on a footing with similar societies of other nations, has long been desired by the friends of science in this country, but the way to obtain it has not heretofore seemed clear. Mr. Sumner had repeatedly been spoken to by Agassiz in favor of such an organization, but wrapped up in his own schemes, he did not give any active aid. Strange as it would seem, Mr. Wilson, by no means a scholar, took up the matter earnestly when it was broached to him, also by Agassiz. It was further prompted by the wish that the executive departments of the government should have some responsible counsel to fall back upon, in judging of the multifarious propositions made by inventors and schemers, upon whom the reference to the Academy will be a great check, even if it scores no better purpose.



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The matter remained in suspense, however, without any preparation, until within a week of the close of the session, Wilson wrote Agassiz, that it was a good time now to bring the measure forward, and asked for a draft of a proper Bill.

Agassiz referred him to Prof. Bachs, and this produced the first interview Wilson ever had with the latter! The whole thing was to be got ready in twenty-four hours. Agassiz was just elected Agent of the Smithsonian, and came to Washington, so did Peirce, and between them and Bachs & Henry the outlines of the Bill were concocted.

A limited number was agreed on by all: this would be as keeping out unworthy persons, if the number were unlimited. Why 50 was chosen I do not know - but I do not think you could find 10 more who could fairly work with them named in the Bill, in the several departments. The selection of members was a very difficult or rather ~~delicate~~ delicate task. It was desired, on the part of the men of science, that only a few, say Bachs, Henry, Agassiz, should be named, and the list should be filled by succession elections in which every member add his list should take part. But Mr. Wilson insisted, that the they should be all ready made, and so the list was furnished, made up in two great lists, doubtless, but still a good as could have been got by any imaginable process.

If the plan first suggested had been adopted, the list



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would eventually not have differed materially from what it is.

As it is, many considerations had weight that must make the institution more generally acceptable, had it probably would have been, if it had proceeded from the counsels of many, rather than of a few - considerations of distribution over the whole country, of government organizations, as army, navy &c, of equalizing the different branches of science - of good moral character &c.

There are, of course, great complaints from some that are left-out who think they ought to be in - also some cavilling of actual members: but all agree that with a change of three or four names (different names of course with each power) the list is as good as could be made. Now that is what I call a great success, to have come as near perfection as that.

However that may be, there is now a very general disposition among the members to try and make the Academy a living thing. Whether Section III will be of any effect, must of course depend on the Government's calling for the advice of the Academy: fortunately there are members of the present Government willing to do so, and the example once set, it will hardly be discontinued.

In regard to the selections, I will give you as my own judgment, that pre-dilections may have had their influence, and thus a few may have been excluded who otherwise might have been in: but ~~on~~ the other hand, personal aversions ^{for one} have certainly not been allowed to weigh with Mr. Parker,



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for I see some of his pet aversions on the list. Ocurring
Vacancies will soon right the omissions.

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You will observe that the Academy covers only Mathematics,
Physics & Natural History. Literature, Statistics and all matters
of human make find no place in it. What subdivisions,
beside the two fundamental ones of Mathematics & Physics on the one
^{including Geology} hand, and Natural History on the other, will be made, remains
to be seen. I wish you could be present at the meeting in
April. I am not quite sure of going there myself, for
I am overburdened with business, but I shall try.

It is of course a secret, who made the list, and Mr. Wilson
takes the responsibility - It is a secret, however, perfect to all,
and I have no objection to your showing this letter to Chauvenet,
& you choose. - I suppose there will be associate members,
and corresponding members, and all that sort of thing - but
I have given little thought to the plan of organization, believing
that one will be prepared by those Titans who so skilfully & secretly
forged this Bill, that not even the smoke of the furnaces was
seen.

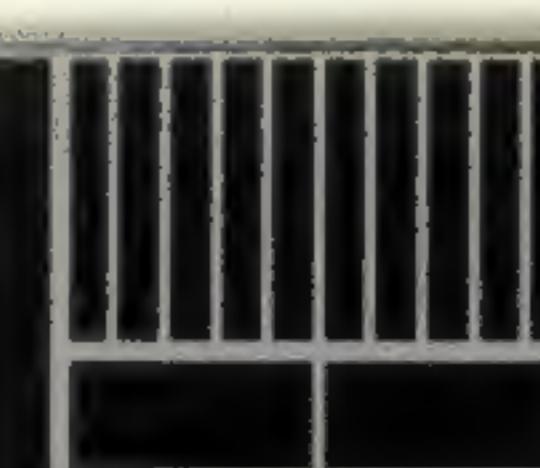
With my best regards to your wife

Yours affectionately

J. D. Gilgau

D. George Engelmann

St Louis Mo.



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Rev Deodol^{1st}
Aug 27

Washington, Dec. 21/63

My dear Doctor,

I hope you will make the January meeting of the Academy an occasion to visit us, and to bring your wife with you. The Washington members and their friends have arranged among themselves to entertain at their houses all those from a distance who will attend. W. Bates, the Attorney General, desires to receive some of the members, and it has been proposed that you and Chauvet, being Missourians, should go there; to which I have conditionally consented, depending on its being perfectly agreeable to you. Of course I should prefer to entertain you myself. At all events, you must come straight to my



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Town, N. 280 Hect. bet. 17 & 18, North side,
and then if it should be agreed that you
go to Mr. Gates', I will go round to
his house with you.

You may laugh and call this country
chickens before they are hatched - but
really, you must come: not only because
this first meeting "should be well attended",
but also because there are several vacancies
to fill, which ought to be filled in the
Natural History division, and we must
depend upon the members of the class to
make a good selection. Now do come
and help us make a good start.

Do not for a moment imagine that
any political considerations have come
into play in bringing the Academy into
existence. Circumstances have been
adroitly taken advantage of to gain a



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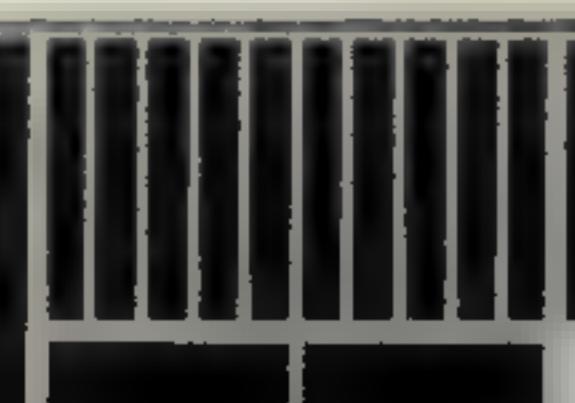
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national recognition for science, and we
have worked hard during the summer to
let the Government feel the importance
of having a recognised and disinterested
body to fall back upon in judging of
the many schemes proposed, and in solving
problems of applied science. Thus we have
a Commission on canaries for iron ships,
which will make a most interesting report;
one on the protection of the currency against
counterfeiting, another on uniformity of Weights
and Measures and several others of minor importance.

The meetings are to be held in the Capitol,
in one of the rooms of the Senate wing.

The Senate oath which is required, is much
such a one as men take in every civilized
country, to stand by law and order.

Tell your wife that the Secretaries
of State and Treasury have written



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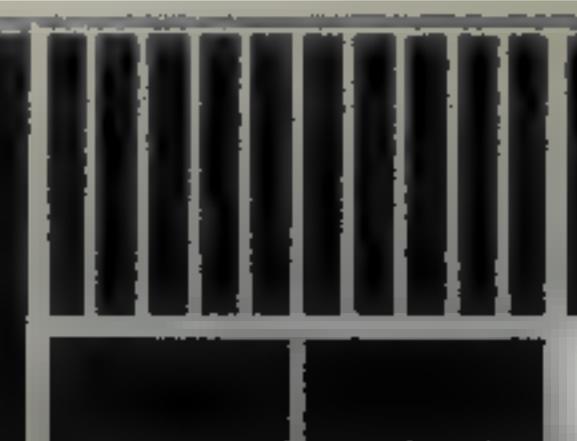
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Known their intention to give each a
soirée to the Academy - so she must
be sure to come. My wife joins cordially
in this request, and sends her best
regards to your both.

Yours very truly
F. L. Gilgarn

D. George Engelmann

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Rec'd July 8'
Aug Dec 27

Washington, July 5, 1864

Dear Doctor,

The next meeting of the Academy will commence on Wednesday 3rd of August, at New Haven. You will doubtless receive formal notice, but I want to urge you, on my own account, to attend. Our January meeting was very successful, and both Houses of Congress have ordered our Report to be printed.

The meeting was very harmonious, and there was no trace of political feeling.

We had a couple of large rooms in the Senate wing of the Capitol assigned to us for holding our sessions.

The Natural History Class is at present not numerously represented. There are several vacancies, and we need your advice in filling them up. I hope you will come with best regards to your wife.

Yours faithfully

H. H. Gilgand

S. J. Engelmann



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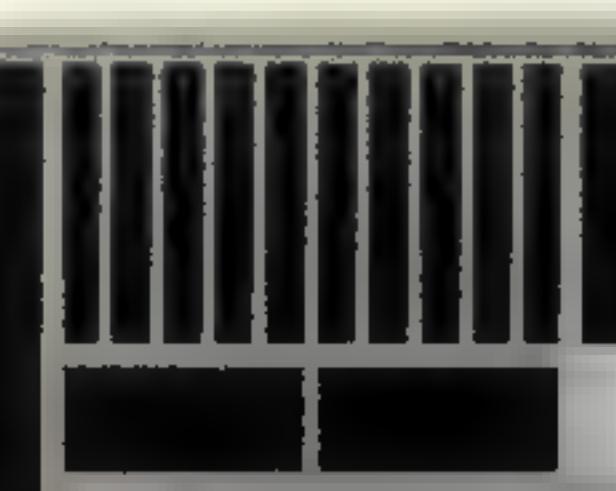


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Rec'd Nov 25th
Dec 27

Washington, Nov. 22, 1864

Lieber Doctor,

Es fahrt die vor einigen Tagen
darauf Sie fahrt den nächsten Japanbrief des
Konfidenzien des Akademie an den Kongress zuge-
schickt, der Sie Hoffnung aufholen fahrt wird.

Lassen Sie sich das vornehmlich bitten zu
der nächsten Zeppenmontage zu kommen, und
Sie werden bei mir abgestiegen. Es werden
mir sehr hilf, und ich kann mir das nicht
denken, dass man Ihnen die Zeit Ihres Lebens lang
der Himmelskugel gewidmet fahrt, ob Sie nicht
Anteil nehmen wollen an einer der in die Nation
verankerten Organisation.

Die nächste Zeppenmontage findet fahrt am 3rd Januar
statt. Natürlich ist dann Your in der Zeitung mit-
abgedruckt, und ein wenig wird fahrt an jedem
Fremden Sie werden bei fahrt zu gebraucht.

Dein treuer Weller

J. S. Gilgad

J. G. Engelmann.

St Louis.



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Hilgard, J. E.
Washington, D.C.
November 22, 1864.

TRANSLATION

Washington, Nov. 22, 1864.

Dear Doctor,

Several days ago I mailed you the first Annual Report of president of the Academy to Congress and I hope you have received it.

Please, let me ask you again to attend the next meeting and to stay with me. I should appreciate it very much and I can't hardly believe that you don't want to take part in an organization recognized by the entire nation, especially since you devoted all your life to science.

The next meeting will take place on January 3rd. Of course, your wife is included in the invitation and my wife will be very happy to have her stay with her again.

Your faithful cousin,
J. E. Hilgard.

Dr. G. Engelmann
St. Louis,



Rec'd Dec 25
Am Dec 27

U. S. Coast Survey Office.

Washington, Dec. 31 1864

Dear Sir;

On the part of the Committee of Arrangements for the January meeting of the Academy in Washington. I have the honor to inquire whether it is your intention to attend that meeting.

Yours respectfully
J. R. Hilgard

Dr.

Geo. Engelmann,
St. Louis,
Mo



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Rec Nov 14th

Washington, Nov. 11, 1867

Dear Dr.

We have not hitherto collected any marine plants, but as you suggest, it can very easily be done, and Prof Prince will at one take steps to that end. You will be requested to prepare some instructions relative to the collection and preservation, and Postlethwait is charged with the immediate direction of the matter.

I am afraid Holcott Gibbs is not a very active Lecturer, else he would long since have informed you that your resignation was accepted, and your name was



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placed on the list of honorary members
of the Academy

Yours faithfully.

J. S. Higgin

D. Dr. Engelmam

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